REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Amended independent claim 1 is directed to a method, wherein a network element is connected to <u>a Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) network</u>" (emphasis added).

Support for the "Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) network" can be found on page 1 of the application text and in claim 10 as originally filed.

In the Advisory Action dated September 20, 2002, the Examiner equates the formerly claimed "digital communications network" with the system bus 105 shown in Fig. 1B of the Bennett reference.

However, Applicants submit that there is no teaching or suggestion anywhere in the Bennett reference that the system bus 105 is a "Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) network", as claimed in amended claim 1.

For at least this reason, Applicants submit that amended claim 1 is patentable over the prior art made of record.

Amended independent claim 7 is directed to a network element, wherein the network element is connected to a Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) network.
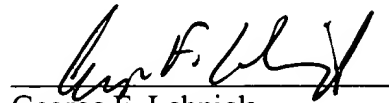
Amended independent claim 9 is directed to a Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) network with network elements, wherein each network element is connected to the Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) network.

Therefore, Applicants submit that arguments analogous to those presented in connection with the discussion of the patentability of amended claim 1 apply to amended claims 7 and 9

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with equal force. The dependent claims should be patentable at least by virtue of their

dependency from their respective independent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method (100) comprising the steps of:

checking in response to a request (RQ = RQ*) for access to one (MO*) of a plurality of managed objects (MO1, MO2, MO*) whether this requested object (MO*) is stored in a memory (MEM) (step 110) of a network element connected to a ~~digital communications~~ Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) network;

if this requested object (MO*) is not stored in the memory (MEM), checking whether there is sufficient memory space to write this object (MO*) into the memory (MEM) (step 120);

if there is no sufficient memory space, swapping at least one (MO1) of the stored objects (MO1, MO2) out of the memory (MEM) to a database (DB) according to at least one predeterminable criterion (step 130); and

reading the requested object (MO*) from the database (DB) and writing it into the memory (MEM) (step 140).

7. (Twice Amended) A network element for a ~~digital communications~~ Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) network comprising a controller (FLT) for managing the network element using managed objects (MO1, MO2, MO*), a memory (MEM) connected to the controller (FLT), and a database (DB) connected to the controller (FLT), wherein the network element is connected to the ~~digital communications~~ Synchronous Digital Hierarchy network,

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wherein the controller (FLT), in response to requests (RQ), manages the network element by accessing the memory (MEM) and using the objects (MO1, MO2, MO*) stored therein, wherein, in response to a request (RQ = RQ*) for access to one (MO*) of the managed objects (MO1, MO2, MO*), the controller (FLT) checks whether this requested object (MO*) is stored in the memory, wherein, if this requested object (MO*) is not stored in the memory (MEM), the controller (FLT) checks whether there is sufficient memory space to write this object (MO*) into the memory (MEM), wherein, if there is no sufficient memory space, the controller (FLT) causes at least one (MO1) of the stored objects (MO1, MO2) to be swapped out of the memory (MEM) to a database (DB) according to at least one predeterminable criterion, and wherein the controller (FLT) reads the requested object (MO*) from the database (DB) and writes it into the memory (MEM).

9. (Twice Amended) A ~~digital communications~~ Sychronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) network with network elements, each network element comprising a controller (FLT) for managing the network element using managed objects (MO1, MO2, MO*), a memory (MEM) connected to the controller (FLT), and a database (DB) connected to the controller (FLT), wherein each network element is connected to the ~~digital communications~~ Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) network, wherein the controller (FLT), in response to requests (RQ), manages the network element by accessing the memory (MEM) and using the objects (MO1, MO2, MO*) stored therein, wherein, in response to a request (RQ = RQ*) for access to one (MO*) of the managed objects (MO1, MO2, MO*), the controller (FLT) checks whether this requested object (MO*) is stored in the memory, wherein, if this requested object (MO*) is not stored in the

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memory (MEM), the controller (FLT) checks whether there is sufficient memory space to write

this object (MO*) into the memory (MEM), wherein, if there is no sufficient memory space, the

controller (FLT) causes at least one (MO1) of the stored objects (MO1, MO2) to be swapped out

of the memory (MEM) to a database (DB) according to at least one predeterminable criterion,

and wherein the controller (FLT) reads the requested object (MO*) from the database (DB) and

writes it into the memory (MEM).

10. (Amended) A communications The Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) network as

claimed in claim 9, particularly an SDH network, wherein the network elements are at lease one

of crossconnects, add-drop multiplexers, and/or and line multiplexers.